

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Reps. Scott, Garza, Breen, Neeley, Witwer, Lasinski, Clemente, Brabec, Sneller, Ellison, Puri, Steenland, Young, Manoogian, Pohutsky, Anthony, Brenda Carter, Cavanagh, Rabhi, Tyrone Carter, Thanedar, Bolden, O'Neal, Hood, Peterson, Whitsett, Sowerby, Brixie, Hope, Aiyash, Jones, Coleman, Sabo, Hertel, Tate, Bezotte, Kuppa, Koleszar, Morse, Shannon, Yancey, Haadsma, Steckloff and Weiss offered the following resolution:

- 1 A resolution to declare March 8, 2021, as International
- 2 Women's Day in the state of Michigan.
- 3 Whereas, March 8, 2021, marks the 110th anniversary of the
- 4 celebration of International Women's Day. Originally began in
- 5 response to terrible working conditions and exploitation, 15,000
- 6 women took to the streets in New York protesting the terrible

1 working conditions they endured. It is celebrated on March 8 of
2 every year; and

3 Whereas, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating
4 the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the
5 past, present, and future. It is a day when women are recognized
6 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,
7 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an
8 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments
9 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential
10 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

11 Whereas, In different regions the focus of the celebrations
12 ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love
13 towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and
14 social achievements; and

15 Whereas, The earliest Women's Day observance was held in 1909
16 in New York and was organized in remembrance of the strike of the
17 International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. At the second
18 International Women's Conference in 1910, the first International
19 Women's Day was officially established to promote equal rights,
20 including suffrage, for women. The following year, International
21 Women's Day was marked by over a million people in Austria,
22 Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. The efforts of early European
23 pioneers led to women gaining the right to vote and to hold public
24 office and the establishment of many early prohibitions against
25 employment sex discrimination; and

26 Whereas, In 1975, during the United Nations (UN) International
27 Year for Women, the UN held its first official celebration of
28 International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the
29 General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations

1 Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed by
2 member states. In adopting this resolution, the General Assembly
3 recognized the role of women in peace efforts and development and
4 urged an end to discrimination and an increase of support for
5 women's full and equal participation; and

6 Whereas, Beginning in 1996, International Women's Day
7 organizers began adopting a theme to each year's celebrations that
8 reinforces its commitment to women's rights and world peace.
9 Successful campaigns centered on such themes as "Celebrating the
10 Past, Planning for the Future" (1996) and "Women in Decision-
11 Making" (2006); and

12 Whereas, Presidents of the United States have consecutively
13 declared March to be Women's History Month since 1988 after the
14 National Women's History Project petitioned the United States
15 Congress in 1987 for recognition of Women's History Month, and have
16 since announced the 2021 theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote:
17 Refusing to be Silenced continues to celebrate the Suffrage
18 Centennial"; and

19 Whereas, On the occasion of 2010 International Women's Day,
20 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) drew attention
21 to the hardships displaced women endure by spreading awareness of
22 the displacement of populations as one of the gravest consequences
23 of today's armed conflicts; and

24 Whereas, There are more than 3.8 billion women in the world
25 today. Women around the world participate in the political, social,
26 and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in
27 providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially
28 to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers,
29 play an important role in advancing food security for their

1 communities; and

2 Whereas, The advancement of women is a public policy priority
3 for our country and the state of Michigan and the ability of women
4 to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a
5 country and state to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and
6 social stability; and

7 Whereas, 2020 saw an historic shattering of a glass ceiling
8 with the election of Kamala Harris as the first female Vice-
9 President of the United States. The hope is that someday soon the
10 ultimate glass ceiling will be shattered with the election of the
11 first female U.S. President; and

12 Whereas, Although strides have been made in recent decades,
13 women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in
14 all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all
15 aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and
16 discrimination; and

17 Whereas, Despite some achievements by individual women
18 leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented
19 in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and
20 governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women
21 account for only 25 percent of national parliamentarians; and

22 Whereas, Women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention
23 and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven successes by women
24 in conflict-affected regions in moderating violent extremism,
25 resolving disputes through non-violent mediation and negotiation,
26 and stabilizing their societies by improving access to peace and
27 security services, institutions, and decision-making venues; and

28 Whereas, March 8 is recognized each year as International
29 Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and

1 social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day
2 to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle
3 for equal rights and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
5 this legislative body declare March 8, 2021, as International
6 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of
7 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women
8 is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate
9 economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security,
10 honor the women in the United States and around the world who have
11 worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed
12 equality and basic human rights, reaffirm the movement's commitment
13 to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to
14 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing
15 policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls
16 worldwide, and encourage the people of Michigan to observe
17 International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.